United Nations

Statistical Commission

Report on the forty-second session (22 to 25 February 2011)

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adopted by the Council

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-second session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-third session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-second session;

(b) Decides that the forty-third session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 28 February to 2 March 2012;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-third session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda and annotations

   Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session
3. Programme review: population and housing censuses.

   Documentation

   Report of the programme reviewer
4. Demographic and social statistics:

   (a) Social statistics;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

   (b) Statistics of drugs and drug use and crime statistics;

   Documentation

   Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(c) Washington Group on Disability Measurement;

Documentation

Report of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement

(d) Migration statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Employment statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Labour Organization

(f) Gender statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

5. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Agricultural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair on agricultural statistics

Report of the Wye Group on Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income

(c) Industrial statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Distributive trade statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) International merchandise trade statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics

(f) Statistics of international trade in services;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

(g) Statistics of services;

Documentation

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics

(h) Information and communication technologies statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development

(i) Finance statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Monetary Fund

(j) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(k) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes.

Documentation

Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes

6. Natural resources and environment statistics:

(a) Environmental-economic accounting.

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

7. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(b) International economic and social classifications;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(c) Statistical capacity-building;

Documentation

Report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century

(d) Development indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) Principles governing international statistical activities;

Documentation

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(g) Regional statistical development;

Documentation

Report of the Economic Commission for Europe

(h) Global geospatial information management;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(i) World Statistics Day;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(j) Statistics of human development;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Development Programme

(k) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

8. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

9. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fourth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

10. Report of the Commission on its forty-third session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

42/101
World Statistics Day

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed satisfaction and appreciation that the observance of World Statistics Day was a global success[1] and had made a positive impact in advocating the importance of official statistics;

(b) Commended the United Nations Statistics Division for providing useful tools and supporting the celebrations worldwide;

(c) Took note of the recommendation to allocate adequate time for preparation of the celebrations at the national and global levels;

(d) Noted that while the celebrations for the observance of World Statistics Day in 2010 had reached a wide audience, more attention should be given in the future to maximizing coverage in the media;

(e) Encouraged continuation of the observance of regional and national statistics days, which had proved to have a positive impact in promoting the role of statistics;

(f) Took note of the proposals to observe World Statistics Day regularly, with strong preference for either a two- or five-year interval between observances;

(g) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to formulate, in consultation with the Bureau of the Statistical Commission, a proposal regarding the frequency of the observance and its modalities, including the possibility of adopting a resolution by the General Assembly, and to report to the Commission at its forty-third session on this proposal.

[1] See E/CN.3/2011/2.

42/102
Programme review: gender statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the programme review contained in the report on gender statistics[2] and the informal background documents, and expressed its appreciation to the Ghana Statistical Service for the work it had carried out as programme reviewer;

(b) Noted with appreciation the work of the United Nations Statistics Division on gender statistics,[3] especially publication of *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*, and the work of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, led by Mexico, on indicators on violence against women;[4]

(c) Urged the United Nations Statistics Division to strengthen its leadership role in charting the path for the development of gender statistics globally;

(d) Expressed its appreciation for the work on gender statistics carried out by the regional commissions and other entities such as the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund and requested them to further strengthen their work in this area, and asked the United Nations Statistics Division to take the results into account in efforts to strengthen the global programme;

(e) Agreed to the tasks specified in paragraph 46 and the proposals contained in paragraph 50 of the report of the Ghana Statistical Service[2] but asked that appropriate priority be established;

(f) Acknowledged the strategic role of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on gender statistics and requested the expansion of its scope of work to include:

(i) Review of gender statistics with the aim of establishing a minimum set of gender indicators;

(ii) Guiding the development of manuals and methodological guidelines for the production and use of gender statistics;

(iii) Serving as the coordination mechanism for the global programme on gender statistics;

(g) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division, the regional commissions, the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund to work intensively with Member States to develop appropriate in-country support and to assist them in establishing a sound national programme on gender statistics;

(h) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to consult with the United Nations translation services to provide appropriate translations of the term "gender", taking into account the work that has been carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in this regard;

(i) Recognized that additional resources will be required for the gender statistics programme proposed, and requested the donor community to devote adequate resources to this important area;

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[2] E/CN.3/2011/3.
[3] See E/CN.3/2011/4.
[4] See E/CN.3/2011/5.

(j) Requested that the United Nations Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group report to the Commission at its forty-third session on their proposed workplans and strategies aimed at strengthening the global gender statistics programme.

42/103
National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report[5] and commended the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts;

(b) Welcomed the publication of the English version of the *System of National Accounts, 2008*[6] (2008 SNA) and its distribution to Member States;

(c) Commended the progress made in translating the 2008 SNA into other languages, including the official languages of the United Nations, and expressed its deepest appreciation to the institutions involved in the translation process;

(d) Supported the proposed mandate and governance of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, and requested the Working Group to bring issues on the research agenda and the implementation of the 2008 SNA to the Advisory Expert Group, as necessary, according to the updating procedures, for consideration by the Advisory Expert Group, with a view to ensuring wide participation by the global statistical community on these issues, in particular to the treatment of emission permits under cap and trade schemes and financial intermediation services indirectly measured;

(e) Requested the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to consider, in consultation with the Advisory Expert Group, guidance on incorporating the contribution of the informal sector for an exhaustive measure of gross domestic product, on household sector issues, including distributional aspects of household income, on issues of well-being as reflected in the findings of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (Stiglitz report) and of other national and international reports on this matter, on the measurement of research and development, on the measurement of financial services, on the preparation of quarterly national accounts, and on the compilation of expenditure components of gross domestic product, and to report on the outcomes to the Commission in due course;

(f) Noted the proposal by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to monitor the progress in implementing the 2008 SNA, and requested the Working Group to exercise flexibility in the implementation of SNA 2008;

(g) Welcomed the dedicated webpage of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts on the implementation of the 2008 SNA to facilitate the exchange of experiences of countries in changing over to the 2008 SNA and at the same time adopting the *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities Rev. 4* and the Central Product Classification, Version 2;

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[5] E/CN.3/2011/6.

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XVII.29.

(h) Noted the experiences of Member States and their difficulties in implementing the 2008 SNA, and recognized the need for capacity-building through technical assistance and training;

(i) Noted the importance of timely completion of the update to the *Government Finance Statistics Manual* to enable alignment of government finance statistics with the 2008 SNA;

(j) Requested the establishment of a dedicated knowledge base of training material for implementation of the 2008 SNA, covering the source data and implementation procedure;

(k) Reaffirmed the three-stage approach for the changeover to the 2008 SNA, but expressed the need for flexibility in the time horizon for implementation of the 2008 SNA by Member States, taking into account their needs at different stages of development;

(l) Urged the Friends of the Chair Group on the barriers to the implementation of the 1993 SNA to complete its work as soon as possible, taking into account the implementation programme of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts for the 2008 SNA and the impediments faced by Member States in the transition to the 2008 SNA;

(m) Expressed appreciation for the activities of international and regional organizations to facilitate implementation of the 2008 SNA, especially the regional implementation strategies, and urged those institutions and other donors to devote greater resources for that purpose, including the appointment of experts/advisers on national accounts;

(n) Stressed the importance for Member States to establish their national implementation programmes for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics in line with the regional and global implementation programmes;

(o) Took note of the various reporting formats for national accounts data used by international and regional organizations, and requested the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to look into the matter with a view to proposing a standardized reporting format and to report back to the Commission.

42/104
Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the progress achieved in the work carried out by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting,[7] and noted with appreciation that the work on the revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting was on track despite the tight deadlines;

(b) Appreciated the transparent process for developing agreed recommendations on the items in the issue list for volume 1 of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, in particular the global consultation resulting in cooperation with various stakeholders within the national statistical system;

[7] See E/CN.3/2011/7.

(c) Reiterated the urgency to complete volume 1 of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in time for its submission to the Statistical Commission at its forty-third session, and urged the Committee to consult on the draft chapters, in particular, and as early as possible, on issues of consistency that might emerge during the drafting of volume 1;

(d) Took note of the recommendations on the items in the issue list for volume 1, noting that for one issue the global consultation is ongoing and that for some of the other issues details are to be worked out in continued global consultation with countries through the draft chapters of volume 1 of the revised System of Environmental-Economic Accounting;

(e) Urged Member States to actively engage in promoting the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting as the statistical framework for assessing linkages between the environment and the economy in international forums, in particular the 2012 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio+20);

(f) Requested the Committee to develop, in consultation with Member States and the regional commissions, an implementation plan for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and to set appropriate priorities for Member States to follow.

42/105
Energy statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics[8] and noted that the work undertaken on the international recommendations for energy statistics illustrates effective cooperation among different agencies, expert groups and countries;

(b) Adopted the international recommendations for energy statistics;

(c) Endorsed the main elements of the proposed implementation programme;

(d) Requested that clear guidelines on data sources, on the use of administrative data and on best practices applicable to a wider range of countries be considered in the planned Energy Statistics Compilers Manual, to be prepared through sufficient consultation with relevant Member States and institutions.

42/106
Integrated economic statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed appreciation to the Friends of the Chair for producing practical guidelines on integrated economic statistics to increase the coherence and

[8] E/CN.3/2011/8.

consistency of economic statistics and for conducting the global consultation on the guidelines through a transparent review mechanism;[9]

(b) Welcomed the comprehensive draft guidelines and requested the Friends of the Chair to prepare the final version of the document, taking into consideration the suggestions received in the global consultation and the comments made by the Commission;

(c) Requested that the finalized guidelines address further critical areas raised by the Commission such as governance issues, integration of source data (use of administrative sources and survey data), integration of household and enterprise surveys and frames, integration of relevant industries and other domains such as agricultural statistics, and other additional themes suggested in the comments;

(d) Requested that the final document incorporate practical guidelines on the implementation framework of integrating economic statistics and that, in order to assist countries in implementing the guidelines, it also incorporate prioritization and sequencing of the areas of integration;

(e) Urged interested Member States and organizations to provide specific text to the Friends of the Chair and, where possible, case studies on the various themes that were suggested for the improvement of the guidelines for the incorporation of their contributions in the final document;

(f) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to develop and maintain a web-based knowledge portal even after the finalization of the guidelines in order to provide a single access point to a broad range and diverse set of case studies and information material related to the integration of economic statistics applicable to both developed and developing statistical systems, and encouraged Member States to make available their country experiences and case studies for the finalization of the guidelines and the portal.

42/107
Short-term economic indicators

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on short-term indicators,[10] and commended the joint initiative undertaken by the United Nations Statistics Division and Eurostat, in close collaboration with Statistics Canada, Statistics Netherlands and Russian Federal State Statistics Service, to propose a programme on short-term economic statistics based on the recommendations of three international seminars as a coordinated response to the economic and financial crisis;

(b) Agreed with the proposed work programme for short-term statistics for rapid estimates, business cycle composite indicators, tendency surveys, the data template, analytical indicators and the proposed governance structure;

(c) Requested that the requirements of national accounts, the national statistical system and other national governance arrangements be taken into account

[9] See E/CN.3/2011/10.
[10] E/CN.3/2011/11.

in the implementation of the programme of work, and also requested that due attention be given to the issue of improvement of source data;

(d) Encouraged Member States to establish national central data hubs using Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange standards on a voluntary basis in accordance with the proposed internationally accepted data template to ensure harmonization with international guidelines, while expressing the need for further consultations with Member States and flexibility in the time horizon for the creation of these data hubs;

(e) Noted the work done by international and regional institutions in providing guidance on the compilation of short-term economic indicators, and urged the United Nations Statistics Division to work in close collaboration with those institutions in the preparation of the programme on short-term economic statistics for the purpose of harmonization of practices;

(f) Encouraged Member States to participate in the global assessments on rapid estimates and business cycle composite indicators and to submit their practices of compilation and use of short-term economic indicators to the United Nations Statistics Division for inclusion in the Knowledge Base on Economic Statistics of the Division website;

(g) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to appoint an interregional adviser to assist countries in training and capacity-building for the international programme on short-term statistics and to work closely with the regional commissions in this area;

(h) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to report to the Commission, in due course, with a detailed work programme on short-term economic statistics highlighting the resources required for the programme and the limitations involved in its implementation.

42/108
International Comparison Programme

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme[11] and noted with satisfaction the progress made thus far;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to Statistics Norway, the outgoing chair of the Executive Board of the International Comparison Programme for the valuable services and work it had provided, and welcomed Italy as the incoming chair of the Executive Board;

(c) Also expressed its appreciation to all the partners who have supported the International Comparison Programme, in particular the regional coordinators for providing additional training as well as financial support to the countries;

(d) Urged the Executive Board, the Global Office and the regional coordinating units of the International Comparison Programme to continue to undertake active consultations with the Member States on the methodology of the Programme, in particular in the global linking process and on the use of purchasing

[11] E/CN.3/2011/12.

power parity data and their computation, and also urged the International Comparison Programme to liaise with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts on issues related to the use of the System of National Accounts;

(e) Urged the Executive Board to consider the release of detailed data to support enhanced data use consistent with a data release policy that respects the statistics laws of countries and to encourage disclosure of relevant metadata to assist in the interpretation and assessment of data quality;

(f) Noted the need for funding the price surveys and other related activities of the International Comparison Programme, in particular on capacity-building programmes on the use of International Comparison Programme results in developing countries, and urged the development partners to take this into consideration in their allocation of development funds;

(g) Acknowledged that the International Comparison Programme has tremendous implications for countries, in particular in terms of developing their capacity to collect and compute price data and to compile national accounts, and urged the World Bank to take additional steps to assist countries in this respect.

42/109
Development indicators

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals,[12] and expressed its appreciation to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the United Nations Statistics Division for the effective monitoring of progress on the Millennium Development Goals indicators and for providing training to countries on national and subnational Millennium Development Goals indicator monitoring;

(b) Commended the progress made in enhancing the dialogue between countries and international agencies and in resolving inconsistencies in data sources since the issue of discrepancies between national and international Millennium Development Goals data was first considered by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-sixth session;

(c) Noted the improvements in data availability for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, while noting that full ownership by countries of Millennium Development Goals data can only be achieved by improving the coordination of national and international statistical systems, by providing national and international training to strengthen capacity for data analysis and by sharing best practices;

(d) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to establish a group of experts to provide assistance, upon the request of countries, to resolve specific Millennium Development Goals data-related issues;

(e) Encouraged the United Nations Statistics Division to continue maintaining the Millennium Development Goals website and database, improve their functionalities and make them available in all official languages;

[12] E/CN.3/2011/13.

(f) Noted the slow progress made in the availability and consistency of data for certain indicators in the Millennium Development Goals indicator database, and encouraged all international agencies to address this issue when establishing priorities in their capacity-building programmes;

(g) Fully endorsed the way forward for the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, as proposed in paragraph 30 of the report of the Secretary-General,[12] including the provision of further training for national and subnational monitoring;

(h) Requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to report on progress achieved to the Commission at its forty-third session.

42/110
Statistics of human development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on statistics of human development[13] and fully agreed with and endorsed its recommendations;

(b) Took note of the report of Brazil, Morocco and South Africa on Member States' concerns with indicators released by United Nations agencies,[14] fully endorsed the concerns expressed therein and strongly supported the conclusions contained in paragraph 25 of the report;

(c) Took note of the report of the United Nations Development Programme on statistics of human development[15] and of the additional informal background documents, and welcomed the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme to provide explanations for its position;

(d) Recognized that the *Human Development Report* is an important document that informs discussions on national and international development, and therefore expressed serious concern on the statistical sources and methods used for the *Human Development Report*;

(e) Expressed deep regret and strong dissatisfaction that the *Human Development Report* Office did not respond adequately to the recommendations of the expert group on the Human Development Index with respect to the quality and availability of data for the chosen indicators, the use of non-official source data and the need to hold extensive consultation with the global statistical community prior to the release of the 2010 report, and noted further in this context the following issues:

(i) That some countries were omitted from the *Human Development Report* on the grounds of lack of data and that the national statistical offices were not informed prior to the decision to omit them;

[13] E/CN.3/2011/14.
[14] E/CN.3/2011/16.
[15] E/CN.3/2011/15.

(ii) That there were discrepancies between the data contained in the *Human Development Report* and the data available from national sources, as well as discrepancies between data published by different United Nations agencies; and

(iii) That non-official data were used, in which case the Commission emphasized that when official data are not available, non-official data should be used, but only after consultation on the quality and accuracy of the data has been undertaken with the respective national statistical offices and that detailed explanations of the sources and methodologies used should be provided;

(f) Stressed the relevance of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities to the issue at hand, and urged the United Nations Development Programme to review the Principles and subscribe to them, and in this context encouraged the United Nations Development Programme, in order to improve coordination, to play an active role in forums such as the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities;

(g) Recognized that while the choice of the theme and of the indicators for the *Human Development Report* is the prerogative of the United Nations Development Programme, the issue of data quality and adequacy falls within the purview of the Statistical Commission on behalf of the global statistical system and that prior consultation is necessary;

(h) Reiterated the need for the United Nations Development Programme to be fully transparent in its methods of statistical work in preparing the *Human Development Report*, and called for consultation with all parties concerned;

(i) Stressed the continuing role of the expert group on the Human Development Index established by the Statistical Commission, and mandated it to continue work in reviewing the issues arising from its first report;[13]

(j) Requested the United Nations Development Programme to:

(i) Report to the Statistical Commission within three months on the issues raised in the present decision;

(ii) Establish a calendar for the various preparatory phases for the *Human Development Report*, and disseminate the calendar to national statistical offices or national coordinating agencies so that they are informed about the sources of statistical data and the methods used in the report and about ways to address potential concerns and facilitate their resolution;

(iii) Consult in advance with Member States when reviewing the statistical data required for the indicators to be used for the *Human Development Report*;

(iv) Establish a communication plan with national statistical offices on the use and adequacy of non-official national data, in cases where official national data are not available;

(k) Urged the United Nations Statistics Division to take a central role to assist Member States in addressing issues of data discrepancies and consistency with international organizations, paying special attention to issues of consistency of data disseminated by United Nations agencies, in this context stressed the need for an authoritative agency in the United Nations system to coordinate statistical activities, asked relevant United Nations authorities to review the situation, and requested the

United Nations Statistics Division to report to the Commission on this issue at its forty-third session.

42/111
Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Fully recognized the continuing critical importance of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics,[16] and welcomed the sharing of experiences among countries and the inclusion of the Fundamental Principles in statistical legislation, charters and public declarations;

(b) Acknowledged that the Fundamental Principles were still as relevant today as they have been in the past and that no revision of the 10 principles themselves was currently necessary;

(c) Recommended, however, that the United Nations Statistics Division facilitate the formation of a Friends of the Chair group to revise and update the language of the preamble of the Fundamental Principles in order to take into account new developments since the time when the Principles were first formulated, to assess how they can be re-enforced, and to develop a practical guide for the implementation of the Principles to include new developments and good practices by national statistical offices, other producers and users of statistics;

(d) Recommended that the Friends of the Chair group complete its work in full consultation with Member States and report to the Commission before 2014, in time for the twentieth anniversary of the Fundamental Principles;

(e) Agreed that it was desirable to conduct periodic reviews of the implementation of the Principles by Member States, and asked the United Nations Statistics Division to undertake such a review and report the results to the Commission before 2014;

(f) Encouraged regional assessments of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles be undertaken, and requested the United Nations Statistics Division, the regional commissions and other relevant organizations to provide support to Member States as they implement the Principles;

(g) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to submit the Fundamental Principles, with their appropriately revised preamble, to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for endorsement before 2014 and to further facilitate the recognition and endorsement of the Fundamental Principles at the highest national political level through the appropriate means;

(h) Encouraged wide promotion of and adherence to the Fundamental Principles so that stakeholders understand the benefits of the Principles.

[16] See E/CN.3/2011/17.

42/112
Statistical capacity-building

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building;[17]

(b) Expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Statistics Division for the work done on statistical capacity-building in developing countries;

(c) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to enhance its consultations with the Member States in order to identify their emerging training needs;

(d) Recognized that statistical capacity development involved many national and international partners, and encouraged all partners to collaborate in and coordinate these efforts;

(e) Recognized the important work undertaken by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and by other national and regional training centres, expressed its appreciation to the respective governments for their support, and encouraged the training centres to further coordinate their activities;

(f) Noted with appreciation the offers of a growing number of countries to help other countries to strengthen their statistical capacity, and encouraged the continuation of this trend;

(g) Welcomed the organization of an event on the strategy of statistical capacity development at the fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November 2011, to work out a plan of action for the future, and requested the World Bank to report to the Commission at its forty-third session on this initiative and on progress towards implementing the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics.

42/113
Regional statistical development in Western Asia

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on regional statistical development in Western Asia;[18]

(b) Expressed appreciation for the work undertaken on the development of statistics in the region, but noted that still more work needs to be done to promote the culture of statistics in the region;

(c) Acknowledged the importance of coordination among different bodies active in the field of statistics in the region, and urged the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to play a greater role in that coordination;

[17] E/CN.3/2011/18.
[18] E/CN.3/2011/20.

(d) Took note of the initiative to develop a regional strategy, and looked forward to being informed when the strategy has been prepared;

(e) Urged the development partners to provide full support, in collaboration with regional entities such as the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, for the capacity-building efforts of the countries in the region.

42/114
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Statistical Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. In particular, the Commission took note of the conference room paper[19] containing the draft programme of work for the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2012-2013. It also approved the adjustments to the list of outputs for the current 2010-2011 programme, contained in the annex of the conference room paper, and authorized the Bureau to approve further adjustments, should they become necessary in the course of 2011.

42/115
Items for information

The Commission took note of the following reports:

Report of the Secretary-General on the Global Gender Statistics Programme[20]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on the review of indicators on violence against women[21]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics[22]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century[23]

Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses[24]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics[25]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics[26]

[19] See E/CN.3/2011/CRP.2, available from: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc11/2011-CRP2-UNSDPro-E.pdf.
[20] E/CN.3/2011/4.
[21] E/CN.3/2011/5.
[22] E/CN.3/2011/9.
[23] E/CN.3/2011/19.
[24] E/CN.3/2011/21.
[25] E/CN.3/2011/22.
[26] E/CN.3/2011/23.

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on agriculture statistics[27]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers[28]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics[29]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics[30]

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics[31]

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities[32]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on the inventory of global statistical standards[33]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange[34]

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission[35]

Report of the Secretary-General on national quality assurance frameworks[36]

Report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management[37]

Report of France on the measurement of economic performance and social progress[38]

[27] E/CN.3/2011/24.
[28] E/CN.3/2011/25.
[29] E/CN.3/2011/26.
[30] E/CN.3/2011/27.
[31] E/CN.3/2011/28.
[32] E/CN.3/2011/29.
[33] E/CN.3/2011/30.
[34] E/CN.3/2011/31.
[35] E/CN.3/2011/32.
[36] E/CN.3/2011/33.
[37] E/CN.3/2011/34.
[38] E/CN.3/2011/35.

Chapter II
Items for discussion and decision

A. World Statistics Day

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st and 6th meetings, on 22 and 25 February 2011. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2011/2), and the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

2. At the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, Suriname, Cameroon, China, the United States of America, Togo, Japan and Germany, and the observers for the Dominican Republic, Senegal, South Africa, Cape Verde, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Switzerland, India, the Philippines, New Zealand, the Bahamas, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, Algeria and Samoa. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the International Statistical Institute.

4. Also at the 1st meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (a) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/101).

B. Programme review: gender statistics

6. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 1st, 2nd and 6th meetings, on 22 and 25 February 2010. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 22 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Ghana Statistical Service on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2011/3), the report of the Secretary-General on the Global Gender Statistics Programme (E/CN.3/2011/4) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on Indicators on Violence against Women (E/CN.3/2011/5). At the 1st meeting, an introductory statement was made by the observer for Ghana. At the 1st and 2nd meetings, statements were made by the representatives of China, Suriname, Italy, Norway, Japan, Germany, Cameroon, Morocco and the observers for Egypt, Switzerland, Sweden, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Ukraine, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. The observer of Palestine also made a statement.

7. At the same meetings, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Caribbean Community.

8. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

9. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (b) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/102).

C. National accounts

10. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 22 and 25 February. At its 2nd meeting, on 22 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2011/6).

11. At the 2nd meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement, and statements were made by the representatives of Oman, China, Australia, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Colombia, Cameroon and Italy, and the observers for the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Mongolia, Denmark, the Philippines, Brazil, Saint Lucia, Ukraine, France, Sri Lanka, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan.

12. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa and the International Monetary Fund.

13. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

14. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (c) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/103).

D. Environmental-economic accounting

15. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 22 and 25 February. At its 2nd meeting, on 22 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2011/7). Introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division and the representative of Australia.

16. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Italy, Lithuania, the United States of America, Suriname, Mexico and Germany, and the observers for Egypt, the Philippines, Denmark and Saudi Arabia.

17. At the same meeting, the representative of the European Union made a statement.

18. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

19. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (d) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/104).

E. Energy statistics

20. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 22 and 25 February 2011. At its 2nd meeting, on 22 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics (E/CN.3/2011/8), and the Chief of the Industrial and Energy Statistics Section of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

21. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Norway, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Japan and Australia, and the observers for Iraq, Niger, the United Republic of Tanzania and Iran (Islamic Republic of).

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Energy Agency and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

23. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

24. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (e) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/105).

F. Integrated economic statistics

25. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd and 6th meetings, on 22, 23 and 25 February 2011. At its 2nd meeting, on 22 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2011/10), and introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Economic Statistics

Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division and the representative of the United States of America.

26. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the observer for New Zealand.

27. At the 3rd meeting, on 23 February, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Australia and Suriname, and the observers for Mongolia, Finland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Canada, Jordan and Ukraine.

28. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

29. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

30. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (f) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/106).

G. Short-term economic indicators

31. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 23 and 25 February 2011. At its 3rd meeting, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on short-term economic indicators (E/CN.3/2011/11). The Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

32. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Japan, Oman, the Sudan, Suriname, the United States of America, Italy, the Russian Federation, Norway and China, and the observers for Iran (Islamic Republic of), Indonesia, the Philippines, South Africa, Brazil, Switzerland, Niger, Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania.

33. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Economic Commission for Europe.

34. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

35. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (g) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/107).

H. International Comparison Programme

36. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 23 and 25 February 2011. At its 3rd meeting, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2011/12), and the representative of the World Bank made an introductory statement.

37. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Suriname, China, the Russian Federation, Oman, Italy and Australia, and the observers for Egypt, South Africa, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Saint Lucia, India, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia.

38. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Commonwealth for Independent States, the African Development Bank and the Caribbean Community.

39. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

40. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (h) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/108).

I. Development indicators

41. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 23 and 25 February 2011. At its 4th meeting, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2011/13), and the Commission heard an introductory statement by the Chief of Statistical Planning and Development Section of the United Nations Statistics Division.

42. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Belarus, Germany, Oman and Australia, and the observers for South Africa, the Dominican Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mongolia, India and the Philippines. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

43. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

44. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (i) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/109).

J. Statistics of human development

45. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 23, 24 and 25 February 2011. At its 4th meeting, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on statistics of human development (E/CN.3/2011/14), the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Programme on statistics of human development (E/CN.3/2011/15) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of Brazil, Morocco and South Africa on Member States' concerns about indicators released by United Nations agencies (E/CN.3/2011/16). Introductory statements were made by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, the representatives of Australia and Morocco, the observers for Brazil and South Africa and the representative of the United Nations Development Programme.

46. At the 4th meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Cuba.

47. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, Oman, China, Suriname, Belarus, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, Cameroon, the Sudan, Germany, Australia, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the observers for Cuba, France, Senegal, the Dominican Republic, Mongolia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Turkey, Cape Verde, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Samoa, Saint Lucia, Canada, Paraguay, the Bahamas, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, India, New Zealand, Argentina, Switzerland and Slovenia. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

48. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, the Caribbean Community and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

49. Also at the 5th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks. Subsequently, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco and Italy.

Action taken by the Commission

50. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (j) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/110).

K. Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

51. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings, on 23 and 25 February 2011. At its 3rd meeting, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/17), and the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division and the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made introductory statements.

52. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, Italy, Colombia, the Russian Federation and the Netherlands.

53. At the 4th meeting, on 23 February, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Germany, the United States of America, Mexico and the Sudan, and the observers for South Africa, Tunisia, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Korea, India, the Dominican Republic, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Finland, Timor-Leste and the Philippines. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

54. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Africa, the European Union, the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa, the International Monetary Fund and the International Statistical Institute.

55. Also at the 4th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks. Subsequently, statements were made by the representative of Colombia and the observer for South Africa.

Action taken by the Commission

56. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (k) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/111).

L. Statistical capacity-building

57. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 23 and 25 February 2011. At its 4th meeting, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2011/18), and the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

58. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Armenia, China, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Mexico, and the observers for Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Dominican Republic, Mongolia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Timor-Leste.

59. At the same meeting, the representatives of the World Bank and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific made statements.

60. Also at the 4th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

61. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (l) of its agenda.

62. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/112).

M. Regional statistical development in Western Asia

63. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 24 and 25 February 2011. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia on regional statistical development in Western Asia (E/CN.3/2011/20).

64. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia made an introductory statement.

65. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Lebanon.

66. Also at the 5th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

67. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (m) of its agenda.

68. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/113).

Chapter III
Items for information

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011.

2. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and Italy, and the observers for South Africa, Turkmenistan, Paraguay, Brazil, Pakistan, Cape Verde, the United Republic of Tanzania, Malaysia and Timor-Leste with regard to agenda item 4.

3. At the same meeting, the representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development made a statement.

A. Population and housing censuses

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2011/21).

5. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2011/21) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

B. Health statistics

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/22).

7. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/22) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

C. Education statistics

Action taken by the Commission

8. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics (E/CN.3/2011/23).

9. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics (E/CN.3/2011/23) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

D. Agricultural statistics

Action taken by the Commission

10. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on agricultural statistics (E/CN.3/2011/24).

11. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on agricultural statistics (E/CN.3/2011/24) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

E. Business registers

Action taken by the Commission

12. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (E/CN.3/2011/25).

13. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (E/CN.3/2011/25) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

F. Tourism statistics

Action taken by the Commission

14. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics (E/CN.3/2011/26).

15. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics (E/CN.3/2011/26) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

G. Price statistics

Action taken by the Commission

16. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/27).

17. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/27) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

H. Environment statistics

Action taken by the Commission

18. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the progress report of the Secretary-General on Revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/28).

19. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/28) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

I. Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

Action taken by the Commission

20. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2011/29).

21. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2011/29) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

J. Inventory on global statistical standards

Action taken by the Commission

22. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee on the Coordination of Statistical Activities on the inventory on global statistical standards (E/CN.3/2011/30).

23. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on the inventory on global statistical standards (E/CN.3/2011/30) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

K. Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

Action taken by the Commission

24. The Commission considered item 4 (k) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange (E/CN.3/2011/31).

25. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange (E/CN.3/2011/31) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

L. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

Action taken by the Commission

26. The Commission considered item 4 (l) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Division (E/CN.3/2011/32).

27. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Division (E/CN.3/2011/32) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

M. National quality assurance frameworks

Action taken by the Commission

28. The Commission considered item 4 (m) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on national quality assurance frameworks (E/CN.3/2011/33).

29. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on national quality assurance frameworks (E/CN.3/2011/33) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

N. Global geospatial information management

Action taken by the Commission

30. The Commission considered item 4 (n) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management (E/CN.3/2011/34).

31. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management (E/CN.3/2011/34) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

O. Measurement of economic performance and social progress

Action taken by the Commission

32. The Commission considered item 4 (o) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 24 February 2011. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of France on the measurement of economic performance and social progress (E/CN.3/2011/35).

33. At its 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of France on the measurement of economic performance and social progress (E/CN.3/2011/35) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/115).

Chapter IV
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 25 February 2011. It had before it the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/CN.3/2011/CRP.2) and heard an oral report by the Director on the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division.

2. At the 6th meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa and Brazil.

Action taken by the Commission

3. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the oral report by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division. In particular, the Commission took note of the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/CN.3/2011/CRP.2) and approved the changes to the programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for 2010-2011, authorizing the Bureau to approve any further changes should that prove necessary (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 42/114).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-third session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 25 February 2011. It had before it the following documents, which were introduced by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division:

(a) Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-third session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2011/L.2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat containing the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2011-2014 (E/CN.3/2011/36).

2. At the 6th meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representative of the United States of America and the observer for the Dominican Republic.

Action taken by the Commission

3. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its forty-third session and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Commission also decided to recommend it to the Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

4. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Council that its forty-third session be held from 28 February to 2 March 2012 (see chap. I, sect. A).

5. Also at its 6th meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2011-2014.

Chapter VI
Report of the Commission on its forty-second session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 25 February 2011.

2. At the 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-second session (E/CN.3/2011/L.3) and an informal paper containing draft decisions.

3. At the same meeting, statements on the text of the informal paper were made by the representatives of Australia, Colombia, Italy, Japan, Suriname, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Germany, Mexico, Morocco and the Netherlands, and the observers for Canada, Cuba, Finland, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Philippines, South Africa, Jordan, Brazil, Sweden, New Zealand, Saint Lucia and United Republic of Tanzania.

4. Also at the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the European Union, the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Statistical Institute.

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division responded to points raised during the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

6. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission adopted the draft report, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it. After the adoption of the draft report, the Chair made a statement.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its forty-second session at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 25 February 2011. The Commission held six meetings (1st to 6th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of 24 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2011/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 2011, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:
Ali bin Mahboob Al-Raisi (Oman)

Vice-Chairs:
Brian Pink (Australia)
Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape (Mexico)
Alexander Surinov (Russian Federation)

Rapporteur:
Anna N. Majelantle (Botswana)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 2011, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2011/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
   (a) World Statistics Day;
   (b) Programme review: gender statistics;
   (c) National accounts;
   (d) Environmental-economic accounting;
   (e) Energy Statistics;

(f) Integrated economic statistics;

(g) Short-term economic indicators;

(h) International Comparison Programme;

(i) Development indicators;

(j) Statistics of human development;

(k) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(l) Statistical capacity-building;

(m) Regional statistical development in Western Asia.

4. Items for information:

(a) Population and housing censuses;

(b) Health statistics;

(c) Education statistics;

(d) Agricultural statistics;

(e) Business registers;

(f) Tourism statistics;

(g) Price statistics;

(h) Environment statistics;

(i) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

(j) Inventory of global statistical standards;

(k) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

(l) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

(m) National quality assurance frameworks;

(n) Global geospatial information management;

(o) Measurement of economic performance and social progress.

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-third session of the Commission.

7. Report of the Commission on its forty-second session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session, as orally amended (E/CN.3/2011/L.1).

6. Also at the 1st meeting, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at its forty-second session: the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa, the International Energy Agency and the Pacific Community.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Commission at its forty-second session are available from the website of the United Nations Statistics Division at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2011.htm.

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